MMUA convenes inaugural session of Leadership Academy

The inaugural session of the MMUA Leadership Academy was held Feb. 8-9 at the MMUA headquarters in Plymouth. The first day of featured a networking dinner and focused discussion.

The Academy is a locally-based and affordable, high-level executive leadership development course, focused on meeting the needs of Minnesota’s municipal utilities. The curriculum was developed to tailor to MMUA-member needs, based on focus group discussion.

Primary instructor of the Academy is Kent Myers, Managing Partner of VISION Companies. Myers has over 25 years of experience providing strategic visioning, operational effectiveness, and technology alignment consulting services to global companies. He has a decade of experience in working with Minnesota municipal utilities on leadership and culture development and strategic visioning. In addition to his extensive consulting practice, Myers is an adjunct professor at the Harvard Business School.

The two-year program will be broken into four, two-day sessions per year. Each session is an important building block in developing the skills, awareness, and perspective of a true leader. Sessions are designed to be taken in order. Class size is limited to 25 students.

Some sessions will feature additional instructors and guest speakers who have been through their own journey of adult and professional development.

Leadership: see next page please

MMUA Legislative Conference strengthens bonds

MMUA held a successful Legislative Conference Jan. 31-Feb. 1 in St. Paul. Conference headquarters was the Embassy Suites, but much of the actual work occurred in legislative offices and the state Capitol.

The meeting began midmorning on Tuesday the 31st, with a discussion of issues and MMUA positions (which had been developed in conjunction with the MMUA Government Relations Committee). Dave Osnek, chair of the Senate Energy and Utility Finance and Policy Committee, visited the group and spoke over lunch.

The afternoon was taken up with legislative visits. A number of people also attended committee hearings, including one of Sen. Osnek’s committee, which heard several bills of interest.

A reception for legislators and their staff was held that evening. Approximately 40 senators, representatives and staff members attended, many to spend time with their constituents. The roster of attendees included a number of legislative leaders, including Speaker of the House Kurt Daudt, Chair of the House Job Growth and Energy Affordability Committee Rep. Pat Garofalo, and Dan

Leadership: see next page please

Small utility cybersecurity guide released

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has released a Guide to Cybersecurity, Resilience, and Reliability for Small and Under-Sourced Utilities. The Guide looks at cybersecurity at small utilities (defined as having less than 100 employees or 50,000 meters) and offers a process that utilities may want to consider to better address their approach to the issue.

The Guide notes that much cyber security guidance for utilities falls short, due to size and complexity. However, the report identifies a handful of guides that were developed with smaller utilities in mind. The report is non-technical and 30 pages, including appendices. It is available through a Google search or the ‘Breaking News’ section of the MMUA website.
The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) approved the expansion of natural gas service for two cities, Esko and Brainerd, due to propane supply issues at that time. Gov. Mark Dayton issued an emergency executive order to develop new natural gas projects (whether economical or un economical) to serve unserved or inadequately served areas.

Previously, the MPUC determined that service line extensions, to be allowed, must be economical at tariffed rates. For extensions longer than the line allowance, the customer was required to pay a Contribution in Aid of Construction (CIAC). For uneconomical natural gas projects that would require the utilization of existing customers, the MPUC approved NAS tariffs. This tariff required customers in the new area to be responsible for the costs of providing service.

In addition, a 2015 law allows public utilities to petition the MPUC outside of a general rate case for a Natural Gas Extension Project (NGEP) Rider. The Rider allows a utility to collect a portion of its natural gas extension project's revenue deficiency from all of the utility's customers (including transport customers). In both the Esko and Brainerd cases, project costs will be recovered through both the NAS and NGEP tariffs. The cost of natural gas service will be significantly lower, for all customer classes, than other heating fuels. The NAS and NGEG cost recovery tariffs are to be in place from 25-30 years.

Esko is an unincorporated area, with a population of nearly 1,900, between Cloquet and Duluth; Brainerd is a city of 635, 18 miles south of Marshall on Hwy. 14. The electric co-op is serving Esko.

Lake Region Electric Coop representatives Dec. 26 met with the Deer Creek City Council, in regards to a natural gas project. The electric co-op is conducting a feasibility study to see if it is economically feasible to bring natural gas to a large portion of East Otter Tail County. The pipeline would begin north of Deer Creek and end in Parkers Prairie.

Leadership: First class of new Academy held Feb. 8-9

professionalism, and triumph and have expertise in that session's leadership topic. As an example, assigned reading prior to the first session was a book on leadership—Five Dysfunctions of a Team—by Patrick Lencioni. Points made in the book were discussed and students will go through an assessment before the second course session, to help the instructor and the students understand their styles, strengths, and potential deficiencies in key competencies. Students have various other tasks to work on between sessions and are expected to journal. The Academy is designed to instill the key skills, awareness, and perspective that 21st Century municipal utility leaders need.

The first year sessions included: Building Great Teams; Political Intelligence and Conflict—Navigating the Minesfields; Communications—Presence of A Leader; Building the Toolbox of Leadership. Year Two Sessions: Character—Mind of a Leader and Human Resource Strategies; Behavioral and Organizational and Administration; Financial Leadership and Stewardship; Seeing the Big Picture—Strategic Planning. For more information, contact MMUA Executive Director Jack Kegel at 763-551-1230.
Will trend of Canadian hydropower to U.S. continue?

You can often look at an electric generating project and peg its age by what needs it was designed to meet and the political sensitivities (if any) at the time it was built.

Today, for example, there are several proposed U.S.-Canada transmission projects currently gaining regulatory approvals. Generally, it appears carbon-free (relatively, anyway) hydropower will be flowing from Canada to the U.S. This also means, presumably, that dollars will be flowing from the U.S. to Canada.

APPA’s Public Power Daily reported in January that “a proposed 1,000-megawatt, bi-directional, high-voltage direct current under-water transmission line that would provide a link between the markets of the Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator and the PJM Interconnection has received a presidential permit from the Department of Energy.” Power flows on the line may be bi-directional, according to a project website. There are three other projects of a similar nature that will clearly be carrying power from Canada into the U.S. in December, DOE issued a presidential permit for the New England Clean Power Link, a 1,000-megawatt electric transmission line that will connect New England with eastern Canada, and carry Canadian hydropower into the U.S.

A solicitation process has been launched for energy to be bundled with transmission capacity on Emera Inc.’s proposed Atlantic Link submarine electricity transmission project that will deliver renewable energy (said to be wind and hydro, but the line starts at Muskrat Falls) from Canada into the ISO-New England market.

Minnesotans are familiar with the Great Northern Transmission Line proposed by Minnesota Power. The 500 kV line will carry hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to a substation near Grand Rapids. The project received its U.S. Department of Energy—Presidential Permit on Nov. 15, 2016. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has issued a certificate of need and route permit. Several other regulatory hurdles remain.

It will be interesting to see if this trend—of high-voltage transmission lines carrying Canadian hydropower to the U.S.—continues under a Trump administration, or if resource development in America becomes ascendant.

Editor’s note: This article, by Steve Doenner, first appeared in the News/ Views section of the MMUA website. Thanks to APPA for much background info.
Area power providers reach tentative settlement with EPA over regional haze

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – A tentative settlement was announced Jan. 10 in a lawsuit brought by the Missouri Basin Power Project (MBPP) and the State of Wyoming against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from MBPP’s Laramie River Station in Wheatland, Wyo.

MBPP is owned by six regional consumer-owned electric utilities including the Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA), which is represented in the project by Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), headquartered in Sioux Falls, S.D. The lawsuit was initiated after the EPA approved the majority of Wyoming’s Regional Haze Plan, but rejected the portion related to limiting NOx which contributes to regional haze. The state had approved the NOx emissions limits achieved by the use of over-fire air and low-NOx burners, which had been installed at the Laramie River Station, and the addition of Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) on all three units. EPA said SNCRs were not sufficient and that Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) would be required on all three of the plant’s units.

According to EPA modeling, the increased reduction in regional haze gained by using SCR, rather than SNCR, technology is only a fraction of one deciview—indistinguishable to the human eye.

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead signed MBPP in challenging that decision. Gov. Mead signed the proposed settlement Dec. 22 and it was sent to the EPA.

Among its provisions, the settlement agreement calls for the installation of SCR equipment on Unit 1 of the plant by May 2019 and SNCR equipment on Units 2 and 3 by December 2018. The WMMPA/MRES share of the cost of the installed equipment will be approximately $65 million, instead of nearly $125 million in the original EPA order.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, N.D., the project manager for MBPP, said MMPA Chairman, John Crooks. “Renewable energy is a key component of our power supply and is important to our members’ customers.”

MMPA holds a diversified portfolio of owned and purchased generation containing both conventional and renewable resources. This approach allows the Agency to maintain flexibility in the rapidly-changing electric utility industry and positions the Agency well for the future.


MMPA provides wholesale electricity to its member communities who in turn deliver and sell that electricity to the residential and business customers in their communities.


Aultman joins MMUA as Safety Coordinator

Janet Aultman has joined MMUA as a regional safety coordinator.

Aultman has a strong safety and compliance background and was most recently a regional safety manager for an insurance services company. She performed OSHA, FMCSA/DOT and EPA compliance audits, trained employees in a variety of subjects and handled a number of other duties including accident investigations.

Aultman was an environmental and safety consultant for Potlatch in Bemidji.

She also has experience as a safety consultant at nuclear power plants for Xcel Energy, where she managed on-site industrial safety and health programs to ensure compliance with federal and state OSHA standards and regulations.

Aultman was also a senior safety consultant for the Minnesota OSHA Consultation Division and a senior safety investigator for the MnOSHA Compliance Division. She majored in Industrial Technology and minored in Business Management at Bemidji State University and has several specialized certifications, authorizations and trainings.

Welcome aboard, Janet!
MMUA thanks and recognizes its roster of 2017 Annual Sponsors

MMUA would like to thank those Associate Members who are supporting the association as 2017 Annual Sponsors. The MMUA Annual Sponsorship offers a convenient one-stop payent that allows a company to participate in our most popular events and have a significant presence on or in our most visible communications vehicles.

MMUA thanks those associate members who renewed their annual sponsorships for 2017, and those who signed-up for the first time!

Sponsorship benefits include increased visibility with MMUA members and recognition as an MMUA Annual Sponsor:

• on the MMUA website;
• on banners at MMUA events;
• in MMUA publications.

Additional benefits of becoming an MMUA Annual Sponsor include:

• Complimentary exhibit space (including power) and two complimentary registrations at either the Summer Conference or Technical and Operations Conference trade shows;
• Two meeting registrations at either the Summer Conference or T&O Conference;
• A variety of other acknowledgement throughout the year, at various MMUA events and in other media.

The total value of the Resource Annual Sponsorship is more than $3,500. So you can see that the $1,750 sponsorship package represents an outstanding value.

To sign-up as an MMUA Annual Sponsor, go to the Sponsors/Become a Sponsor link on our website. For more information, particularly related to advertising, call Steve Downer at 763-746-0702. Questions regarding meeting should be directed to Rita Kelly at 763-746-0707. Late sign-ups accepted!

Fees request suspension of MPUC docket on fees charged to qualifying facilities by cooperatives

Fresh Energy and the Minnesota Rural Electric Association on Jan. 9 jointly requested the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission suspend the comment period on a docket investigating fees charged to cooperative electric associations under amendments made in 2015 to Minn. Stat. 216B.164, subd. 3. The one paragraph request noted that the comment deadline was set for Feb. 10. The parties noted that the Legislature “is currently considering changes to the section of the statute under investigation . . .” and requested the suspension in “the interest of efficiency of Commission resources.”

In a separate filing, the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) also requested that the Commission suspend comments “until the outcome of the current Legislative Session is clear. The current Legislature is considering bills (S.F. 141/L.F. 234) to terminate Commission oversight of cooperative and municipal utilities, which contemplates terminating any proceedings currently pending before the Commission. The Department requests that the Commission suspend comments in this proceeding at this time, and reissue a notice for comments if needed once the outcome of the pending legislation is known.”

Numerous comments from cooperative customers critical of the cooperatives’ interconnection fees have also been filed in the MPUC docket. Many of these comments also refer to municipal utilities, although MMUA had not sought legislation.

Editor’s note: This article first appeared as ‘Breaking News’ on the MMUA website.

MMUA issues order for distributed generation workgroup

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Jan. 24 issued an order establishing a workgroup and process to update and improve state distributed electric generation interconnection standards.

The order follows a proposal to reopen Minnesota’s 2004 Interconnection Standards, filed with the Commission by a coalition of environmental groups. Dakota Electric Association, an electric cooperative, also filed recommended changes to the standards.

On Jan. 5, the MPUC and interested parties met to discuss the matter. (See the Janauary Resource for a complete report on that meeting.)

Most parties commenting at the meeting preferred to update the standards consistent with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission standards.

The MPUC agreed with that approach and will, in cooperation with the Department of Commerce, convene a work group to develop the record more fully.

MMUA has received assurances that it will have a spot on the work group.

Editor’s note: This article first appeared as ‘Breaking News’ on the MMUA website.
SMMPA, CMPAS seek solar economies of scale together

by Steve Downer

Municipal utilities have been working with each other, through a variety of arrangements, for decades. As time and technology march on, those arrangements promise to take new form. While a final written agreement has yet to be signed, a current example of municipalities working together involves Central Minnesota Power Agency Services (CMPAS), the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) and the output of a new solar energy development in Owatonna.

CMPAS has explored the development of 40-kilowatt (kw) solar plants to be located in certain member cities. Responses to a request for proposals showed solar development on that small scale to be uneconomic.

Economies of scale had also been an issue for SMMPA as it pursued solar development. The agencies became aware that each had received bids from the same developer. That led to discussions of working together to bring greater economies of scale to a solar project.

SMMPA in 2016 signed an agreement with Lemond Solar Center, LLC, a subsidiary of Coronal Development Services, to buy all electricity generated over 20 years from a 5 MW solar photovoltaic array that will be built, owned and operated by Lemond Solar Center, LLC. The project will be sited on approximately 40 acres near Owatonna, one of SMMPA’s member communities.

A portion of the solar development may be carved out for CMPAS members, who said they would like to buy energy from the plant. These CMPAS member utilities could then sell subscriptions, for output from the plant, to their customers.

CMPAS CEO Steve Thompson said his agency was “not endorsing solar from a wholesale perspective,” but was interested in this opportunity as an alternative to small-scale residential development.

The parties have an agreement in principle for CMPAS to sell a portion of the output to CMPAS members who will in turn supply these individual CMPAS member utilities, said Chris Schoenherr, SMMPA chief external affairs officer. SMMPA recently amended its agency agreement to allow for project members. However, neither CMPAS nor CMPAS-member utilities participating in this development will become project members. Their involvement will be limited to a simple contractual arrangement, similar to a purchased power agreement.

For CMPAS, this is not a project for wholesale, but will be energy sold on a subscription basis to retail customers. The process of selling subscriptions locally is still in the early stages in the CMPAS-member communities.

While limited as a legal arrangement, in terms of electricity generated and dollars involved, the expansion of the principle of municipal utility working together is at least interesting, if not potentially significant.

“Joint action works,” said Thompson. “We have to come together to get scale.”

More generation coming

The 5 megawatt solar plant is being built adjacent to the Owatonna Energy Station, a 38.8 MW natural gas-fired power plant in Owatonna. That generation will replace electric generating capacity lost in September 2010 in a flood of the Owatonna Public Utilities Downtown Power Plant. The new generation, owned and operated by SMMPA, is expected to be nearly twice as efficient as the old generation.

The solar portion of the development is under construction. Panels will be attached to piles, which are being driven into the frozen ground this winter. An access road has been constructed and cable placed. A control building will also be placed on site.

The Lemond Solar Center is expected to be operational by late June and the Owatonna Energy Station by late fall.
It appears that Worthington Public Utilities (WPU) is the only municipal electric utility in Minnesota to have Tesla as a customer.

And, they are glad to have them.

Tesla, which designs and manufactures electric vehicles, among other ventures, also manufactures electric vehicle charging stations. The company installed a set of three “Superchargers” at the Ground Round restaurant south of I-90 in Worthington in late 2013. It has been a hassle-free experience for the utility.

After being contacted by Tesla, WPU Electric Superintendent Pat Demuth helped select the site. Tesla cut a deal with the restaurant for the location, and placed its equipment adjacent to a public parking lot. WPU had three-phase power available at the site. The customer required 480-volt service. For a service that size, WPU billed the customer for all materials, but provided the labor.

It’s something of a novelty, so people notice when somebody is using the Supercharger. While not a daily occurrence, somebody is charging their vehicle roughly every week, more in the summer time.

“It gets used a whole lot more than we ever anticipated,” said Demuth.

Demuth said Tesla provided good documentation in regards to its electric needs and was good to work with. The site looks a little unusual perhaps, but clean and orderly in a modernistic sort of way.

Smart phone applications apprise drivers of the location and availability of charging stations. The city or utility have not received one call in regards to finding the charging station or its operation.

Technical aspects

The charging station includes six plug-ins and three rapid chargers, in a fenced enclosure. Given the high demand but rather intermittent nature of use, the utility set a 300kVA transformer.

The Supercharger is an outdoor rated DC charger capable of delivering up to 90 kilowatts (kW) to a single electric vehicle or a combined 120 kW DC to two vehicles simultaneously, with a peak DC current of 250 amps and a continuous current (DC) of 225A. Voltage range is 50 to 450V. The units are 90 percent efficient, according to Tesla.

The charger load per unit is 135 kW. The Supercharger can be powered from 208V or 480V three-phase power.

A Supercharger footprint is three-feet by 32 inches and they are six feet tall.

Larger sites, of course, may require more power.

When vehicles are charging, the station uses nearly all the rated power of the installation. When no vehicles are present, the station draws very little power. Rapid load changes (on the order of seconds, not mili-seconds) near the maximum rated load, are possible.

Despite the rapid onset nature of the power flow, it hasn’t caused any issues on the Worthington distribution system, which had recently been upgraded to serve several new customers in the growing commercial area.

Electric vehicles are often touted as a way to balance the time of power use on an electrical system, but that may not be entirely the case in Worthington. The highest-use months, for example, have been in July and August, which also coincide with the utility’s peak months.

Location, location, location

There is currently at least one electric vehicle in Worthington, but it doesn’t appear to need the Supercharger to fully recharge for daily use.

As of this writing, there are six Tesla Supercharger stations in Minnesota: Duluth, Baxter, Hinckley, Clearwater, Albert Lea and Worthington. The Albert Lea and Worthington sites are part of a corridor of Tesla supercharging stations along Interstate 90.

The fenced enclosure to the right in the top photo contains much of the Tesla Supercharger infrastructure in Worthington. The charging station plug-ins are lined up to the left of the enclosure. Pictured at left: A Supercharger station “plug.”

Mitchell, South Dakota, 127 miles away.

Ambient temperature affects the actual charge rate, demand placed on the battery for heating or cooling, and vehicle range.

The Tesla Supercharger stations are often located at hotels, restaurants and shopping centers, giving people the opportunity to occupy themselves while charging their vehicle.

February 2017 The Resource/7
Three municipals, cooperatives file electric service area boundary changes with MPUC

Three electric utility service area boundary adjustments involving municipal utilities were approved Feb. 2 by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. In each case, the boundary adjustment allowed municipal utility service within areas of the city. Each request was a joint filing, under Minn. Stat. 216B.39, subd. 3, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce recommended approval.

The municipalities involved included Preston Public Utilities, the City of Staples, and Elk River Municipal Utilities. In Preston’s case, the transfer includes four separate parcels, including the newly-developed Southeastern Minnesota Veteran’s Cemetery, which encompasses 176 acres. The state, the federal government, Fillmore County and the city were all involved in the planning and implementation of the project. The municipal utility had been providing interim service in the area involved. There was one existing customer. The filing included a lengthy and detailed legal description of the property involved.

The Staples filing involved an agreement made 10 years ago between the city and Minnesota Power, involving a Lakewood Health System hospital on the east side of the city. The affected area included approximately 61 acres. The time the hospital was being developed, the city allowed MP to serve the customer for 10 years, at which time service rights would transfer to the city, with no compensation due.

The Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) file a lengthy and detailed technical discussion, spanning multiple years, to minimize disruption to customers. The bulk of this filing addressed customer notice provisions. ERMU has agreed upon appropriate service area exceptions.

The MPUC’s official notice, the ‘Breaking News’ section of the MPUC website and is a pdf file, No. 034449. The Commission prefers that utilities use the MPUC’s checklist when making these service area filings. The checklist is available in the ‘documents’ tab of the MPUC website and is a pdf file, No. 014449. The Commission also requests that utilities file a summary report of all current service area exceptions. The MPUC’s official notice, complete with links to various related items, can be found in the ‘Breaking News’ section of the MPUC website.
The City of Moose Lake has been spending approximately $1.26 million a year to fund the rebates, without recouping rebates costs. The utility had utility had a display of an electric line and lineworker’s tools.

A petition from the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA) to exempt CenterPoint Energy from the state’s Conservation Improvement Program investment and expenditure requirements has been denied by the Minnesota Department of Commerce. MMPA has requested the Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) rescind the Department’s order. The exemption was requested for gas supply to MMPA’s Shakopee Energy Park, a 467 megawatt electric generating facility in Shakopee. The plant will use natural gas as its primary fuel source. MMPA reasoned it should not be required to pay the CIP charges because its members contribute to the CIP program and the power plant qualifies for an exemption, as a large customer.

MMPA said applying CIP charges to fuel it would use to generate electricity would hamper its competitive position in the wholesale electric market.

A rural fiber-to-the-premise project that involves several MMUA members got a shot in the arm recently with the announcement that it had been awarded an $807,966 state Border-to-Border Broadband grant. This portion of the RS (Renville-Sibley) Fiber project will serve 193 unserved households, 99 unserved businesses and three community anchor institutions in portions of Preston Lake, Boon Lake, Brookfield, Osceola, Kingman, Winfield, Crooks, Erickson, Sacred Heart (North), Emmet, Flora, Henryville, Norfolk, Birch Coulee, Camp and Cairo townships in Renville County. Hiawatha Broadband Communications and RS Fiber will provide improved services that officials hope will stimulate business and population growth. There is a $1.26 million local match.

The Hibbing Commission has also approved increased rates for electric, gas and water and steam, each 2 percent, with another 2 percent effective July 1. Base rates will also be increased $1 a month. The increase is meant to stem a decline in cash flow, since June 2015.

SMMPA names Schoenherr Chief External Affairs Officer

ROCHESTER, MN – Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) has named Christopher P. Schoenherr as Chief External Affairs Officer. Schoenherr joined SMMPA in January 2015 as Director of Agency and Government Relations.

“We’re happy to recognize the contribution Chris has made to our organization in his first two years by naming him an officer of SMMPA. Chris joined our team to fill the open spot created by the retirement of the person that had done an outstanding job in that position for years. With Chris in that role now, we haven’t missed a beat and the outstanding work continues,” said David P. Geenschwind, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer.

Prior to joining SMMPA, Schoenherr was a member of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker’s cabinet serving as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Administration. He spent the first 30 years of his career in various capacities at two different Wisconsin investor-owned utilities.
FOR SALE
2007 Ford F250 Super Duty 4x4, 76,000 Miles, 5.4L XL Package. Brand new utility body, inverter, electric brake controller and spot light. Asking $16,500 OBO. Call Alvin or Chris at 320-763-6501 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HELP WANTED
Technology Supervisor
At Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU), we have established ourselves as a strong, knowledgeable team. We provide quality power, water and wastewater treatment to the Brainerd area. We have a culture of innovation where our employees can make a difference and we are looking for like-minded, dynamic individuals to join our team. BPU is seeking qualified candidates to fill our Technology Supervisor position to provide leadership in establishing long-term IT vision and direction; advises BPU staff on strategic information technology issues; develops and applies information technology to support BPU’s goals, policies and strategies. The Technology Supervisor is responsible for the overall IT operations of BPU; develops and implements technology policies; and develops and monitors BPU’s IT operating and capital expense budget. To apply, submit a completed application and any supplemental forms and/or questionnaires (resumes may be attached to the application) before the deadline date. Application may be submitted in person, or email to kschubert@ci.brainerd.mn.us, or by mail to: HR Coordinator, Attn: Kris Schubert, Brainerd City Hall, 501 Laurel Street, Brainerd, MN 56401. For more information, go to www.bpu.org/careers.htm

FOR SALE
Dakota Electric, a large cooperative, has announced a free mobile phone application that its customers can use to report outages and track outage restoration progress. Users can customize the app’s “push” notifications or have updates sent through.
Engineers and Engineering Firms

Building a Better World for All of Us

SEH

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists
800.325.2056 • sehinc.com

Equipment Manufacturers, Suppliers, Service

Utility Construction
Materials & Equipment

Tools & Safety Products

F.A.S.N. SERVICE SUPPLY
9630 64th Street NW
PO Box 981
Annandale MN 55302
(320) 274-7223
FAX (320) 274-7205
WWW.FAS3INC.BIZ

Brown County Rural Electric Association has hired Michael Heidemann of CEO. Heidemann had been serving as chief operating officer. Heidemann has 26 years of experience in the industry. For the last 10 years, he served as Brown County’s operations and engineering manager. For the last four years, he fulfilled those roles at both Brown County and BEMCO Electric Cooperative.

Dave Sunderman has been named CEO of BEMCO Electric Cooperative. Sunder- man has been a manager at the cooperative since 1982 and has been serving as chief operating officer since June. The announcements were prompted by the impending retirement of Wade Hensel, who has been serving as general manager of both cooperatives.

Will Kaul, Great River Energy’s vice president and chief transmission officer, is retiring after working with the generation and transmission cooperative. Kaul played a leading role in development of the CapX2020 projects.

Two solar projects are under construction in Dodge County. One site near Mantorville will be capable of producing 5 megawatts of energy, while another near Claremont is sized at 4.3 MW. The 6 MW Aurora project near Dodge Center is operational.

Gov. Dayton appoints Sieben to serve on Public Utilities Commission

ST. PAUL, MN – Governor Mark Dayton Dec. 29 announced the appointment of Senator Katie Sieben to serve a six-year term on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. She will be replacing Commissioner Beverly Jones Heydinger, who currently serves as Chair of the Commission and did not seek reappointment. Governor Dayton has selected current Commissioner Nancy Lange to serve as Chair of the Commission, for a term expiring on January 7, 2019.

Sieben is a former member of the Minnesota Senate. She served in the Senate from 2006 to 2016 and in the House from 2003-2007. A member of the Minnesota Democratic–Farmer–Labor Party (DFL), she represented District 54, which included portions of Dakota and Washington counties.

She attended Colorado College and later graduated from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Sieben’s father, Michael, and uncle, Harry, also served in the Minnesota Legislature, being members of the House during the 1970s and early 1980s.
Upcoming MMUA Events

Rodeo Clinic
March 7-8, MMUA Training Center, Marshall
If you are competing in the 2017 Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo, you won’t want to miss this free (for members) clinic designed to help prepare you and your team. The clinic will be led by MMUA staff—experienced linemen and Rodeo place-winners. Many attendees will also be Rodeo veterans. Registration deadline is Feb. 24!

PCB Management & Recordkeeping
April 10-11, Ziegler Power Systems, Shakopee
MMUA and Minnesota Rural Electric Association are pleased to offer this program, one of the few available that specifically focuses on managing PCBs and PCB contaminated items. This workshop can benefit individuals responsible for PCB management at all levels of experience, especially those who have recently been assigned PCB management responsibilities.

Instructor is Mark Pennell, founder and President of Regulatory Compliance Services, Inc. (RCS), a PCB management consulting firm based in Springfield, Missouri. RCS specializes in PCB regulatory compliance and risk management and provides diagnostic and educational services for approximately 400 electric utilities as well as numerous commercial/industrial facilities.

Substation School
April 11-13, Ziegler Power Systems, Shakopee
This school is designed to be beneficial to the substation technician as well as the lineworker that is learning more about substations. Top-notch presenters!
Topics to include:
• Fundamentals of Equipment & Control Systems
• Inspections and Maintenance
• Testing: How, When and Why
• Tour of Ziegler’s Power Distribution Equipment
• Substation Transformer Addition
• Tour - Shakopee Public Utilities Substation
• The ‘Ins and Outs’ of Substations

Generation School
April 18-20, Glencoe City Center and Glencoe Light & Power
MMUA is pleased to partner with American Public Power Association (APPA) on the 2017 Generation School. This School can benefit well-seasoned operators, as well as those just starting in the generation field.
This year, our hands-on plant training will take place at Glencoe Light & Power where participants will engage in a range of activities — from basic operation to technical maintenance.
Among our instructors will be Steve Payne on Cooper engines and Steve Lang of Fairbanks Morse.

Conference: continued from front page

Fabian, Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Committee chairs of other committees less germane to the utility business also attended.
The group reconvened the next morning for a variety of programming, including a discussion of the previous day’s activities. Jessica Burdette and Anthony Fryer of the Minnesota Division of Energy Resources discussed developments with the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP), Lissa Pawlisch, Joel Haskard and Pete Lindstrom of the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) discussed several ways they could assist municipal utilities with CIP and community solar development.
OPA: MMUA thanks all those who attended the event and the cities/utilities that sent them. For a look at the main topics addressed by MMUA’s public power advocates, see the Public Policy/State/Currrent Issues tab on the MMUA website.

Substation School April 11-13, Ziegler Power Systems, Shakopee
This school is designed to be beneficial to the substation technician as well as the lineworker that is learning more about substations. Top-notch presenters! Topics to include:
• Fundamentals of Equipment & Control Systems
• Inspections and Maintenance
• Testing: How, When and Why
• Tour of Ziegler’s Power Distribution Equipment
• Substation Transformer Addition
• Tour - Shakopee Public Utilities Substation
• The ‘Ins and Outs’ of Substations

Generation School April 18-20, Glencoe City Center and Glencoe Light & Power
MMUA is pleased to partner with American Public Power Association (APPA) on the 2017 Generation School. This School can benefit well-seasoned operators, as well as those just starting in the generation field.
This year, our hands-on plant training will take place at Glencoe Light & Power where participants will engage in a range of activities — from basic operation to technical maintenance.
Among our instructors will be Steve Payne on Cooper engines and Steve Lang of Fairbanks Morse.

Additional information can be found at www.mmua.org
Go to Events/Calendar and the date for each event.